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INFO RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE
RHMFIS/HQ USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE
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RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
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UNCLAS NIAMEY 000463

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SUBJECT: NIGER: NATIONAL INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION SETS DATE FOR LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS

Ref: Niamey 00378

¶1. (SBU) Summary: On June 19, Niger's National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI) set an August 20 date for legislative elections. Although this is a positive development, the date has yet to be endorsed formally by the Government of Niger (GON). End Summary.

Legislative Elections to be Held

¶2. (SBU) On June 19, the Commission Electoral National Independent (CENI), proposed an August 20 date for parliamentary elections. This comes after President Tandja signed on May 26 a decree to dissolve the National Assembly (reftel). According to Article 48 of the Constitution, elections for a new National Assembly must take place within 45-90 days of the dissolution of the unicameral assembly. If President Tandja were to respect the Constitution, he would be obliged to authorize the election.

President Tandja Will Have to Make Final Decision

¶3. (SBU) The August 20 date for the legislative election set by CENI needs to be approved by the GON. Then President Tandja would issue a decree to call voters to the legislative election. In the meantime, CENI has called on all political parties to submit their lists of candidates.

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